

1. In a computer system that is network connectable along with one or more other computer systems to a network, a method for registering a message application to have primary control of a message folder space, the method comprising:

an act of an operating system receiving a folder registration request from a message application;

an act of the operating system determining that a folder silo has resources available to satisfy the folder registration request;

an act of the operating system allocating a folder space within the folder silo to satisfy the folder registration request; and

an act of the operating system maintaining an indication that the message application has primary control of the allocated folder space such that other message applications can be made aware that the message application has primary control of the allocated folder space.

2. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the act of an operating system receiving a folder registration request from a message application comprises an act of receiving a folder request from an electronic mail application.

3. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the act of an operating system receiving a folder registration request from a message application comprises an act of receiving a folder request for a folder space that is to store electronic messages having fields defined in accordance with a message application extension schema.

4. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the act of an operating system receiving a folder registration request from a message application comprises an act of receiving a folder request for a folder space that is to store electronic messages having specified primary type.

5. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the act of the operating system determining that a folder silo has resources available to satisfy the folder registration request comprises an act of determining that a requested folder space is not currently allocated.

6. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the operating system allocating a folder space within the folder silo comprises an act creating the folder space.

7. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the operating system allocating a folder space comprises an act of allocating a folder space that is to store electronic mail messages.

8. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the operating system allocating a folder space comprises an act of allocating a folder space that is to store electronic messages having fields defined in accordance with a message application extension schema.

9. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the operating system allocating a folder space comprises an act of allocating a folder space that is to store electronic messages of a specified primary type.

10. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein an act of the operating system maintaining an indication that the message application has primary control of the allocated folder space comprises an act of updating an external list that tracks which message folders are allocated to which message applications.

11. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the operating system maintaining an indication that the message application has primary control of the allocated folder space comprises an act of altering the arrangement of the folder silo such that subsequent analysis of the folder silo indicates that the folder space is allocated to the message application.

12. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:
an act of the operating system preventing another message application from accessing the allocated folder space subsequent to the folder space being allocated.

13. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:
an act of the operating system sending a signal to the message application, the signal indicating the folder registration request was satisfied.

14. In a computer system that is network connectable along with one or more other computer systems to a network, a method for accessing contact related data, the method comprising:

an act of accessing an electronic message that has one or more message participants;

an act of, subsequent to accessing the electronic message, selecting a link to a contact item that represents a selected message participant, the link being contained in the electronic message; and

an act of receiving contact related data associated with the selected participant from a contacts silo.

15. The method as recited in claim 14, wherein the act of accessing an electronic message that has one or more message participants comprises an act of accessing an electronic mail message.

16. The method as recited in claim 14, wherein the act of accessing an electronic message that has one or more message participants comprises an act of accessing an electronic message of a specified primary type.

17. The method as recited in claim 14, wherein the act of accessing an electronic message that has one or more message participants comprises an act of accessing an electronic message having one or more fields defined in accordance with a message application extension schema.

18. The method as recited in claim 14, wherein the act of selecting a link to a contact item that represents a selected message participant comprises an act of selecting a hyperlink that represents the link to the contact item.

19. The method as recited in claim 14, wherein the act of selecting a link to a contact item that represents a selected message participant comprises an act of selecting an icon that represents the link to the contact item.

20. The method as recited in claim 14, wherein the act of selecting a link to a contact item that represents a selected message participant comprises an act of selecting a link that represents a defined relationship between a message item and a contact item, the represented relationship being defined in accordance with a schema hierarchy.

21. The method as recited in claim 14, wherein the act of selecting a link to a contact item that represents a selected message participant comprises an act of selecting a participant identifier the participant identifier being selected from among an electronic mail address, a telephone number, and an instant message identifier.

22. The method as recited in claim 14, wherein the act of receiving contact related data associated with the selected participant comprises an act of receiving potentially real-time data from a contacts silo.

23. The method as recited in claim 14, wherein the act of receiving contact related data associated with the selected participant comprises an act of receiving current

contact related data notwithstanding that the contact related data has changed since the electronic message was accessed.

24. The method as recited in claim 14, further comprising:
 - an act of accessing stored contact related data stored in the electronic message, the stored contact related data being associated with the selected link; and
 - an act presenting the stored contact related data and the received contact related data at a messaging application so as to enhance a recipient's ability to locate other message items received from the selected message participant.

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25. A computer program product for use in a computer system that is network connectable along with one or more other computer systems to a network, the computer program product for implementing a method for registering a message application to have primary control of a message folder space, the computer program product comprising one or more computer-readable media having stored thereon computer executable instructions that, when executed by a processor, cause an operating system at the computer system to perform the following:

receive a folder registration request from a message application;

determine that a folder silo has resources available to satisfy the folder registration request;

allocate a folder space within the folder silo to satisfy the folder registration request; and

maintain an indication that the message application has primary control of the allocated folder space such that other message applications can be made aware that the message application has primary control of the allocated folder space.

26. A computer program product for use in a computer system that is network connectable along with one or more other computer systems to a network, the computer program product for implementing a method for presenting contact related data, the computer program product comprising one or more computer-readable media having stored thereon computer executable instructions that, when executed by a processor, cause the computer system to perform the following:

access an electronic message that has one or more message participants;

subsequent to accessing the electronic message, select a link to a contact item that represents a selected message participant, the link being contained in the electronic message; and

receive contact related data associated with the selected participant from a contacts silo.

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